UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Guinan - 343-5634

For Release APRIL 16, 1965

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SCHEDULES DEDICATION OF NEW LABORATORY IN SEATTLE

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today that dedication ceremonies will be held April 19 at the new Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Research Laboratory in Seattle, Wash.

Principal speaker will be United States Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and a member of the Appropriations and Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committees. Ceremonies will start at 10:30 a.m.

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, said the new facility, built at a cost of \$1.5 million, adjoins the old Montlake Laboratory, erected in 1930. He said the new three-story building will house biological research on the first two floors, and a technology laboratory on the third floor. Offices of the Branch of Exploratory Fishing and Marketing Research will occupy the old building.

Mr. McKernan said research at the laboratory is conducted in cooperation with the various States of the Bureau's Pacific Northwest Region, which also has offices in Seattle. The region includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Samuel J. Hutchinson is Regional Director.

The Biological Laboratory currently is studying the distribution of salmon in the high seas as well as identification of salmon of Asian or North American origin. Scientists also are seeking to determine the extent of intermingling of these salmon in the North Pacific and parts of the Bering Sea, and the extent of salmon mortality in the ocean.

The Technology Branch of the Seattle laboratory is continuing several research programs which could expand and diversify the marketing of fishery products. Fish oils are being studied intensively for possible medical and industrial uses. Another program is the study of a method of irradiating fish to extend its shelf life.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries operates 20 laboratories on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts, and in Hawaii and Alaska. Each has specific missions concentrating on important commercial species in its area.